AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC. Logal Department, M/S DL429 Intellectual Property Administration P. O. Box 7599 Loveland, CO 80537-0599

PATENT APPLICATION ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10010372-1

OFFICIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Date: December 20, 2002

Nelson R. Holcomb et al.

Group Art Unit: 1634

Serial No.: 09/900,084

Filed: July 5, 2001

Examiner: Arun K. Chakrabarti

A BUFFER COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR HYBRIDIZATION

OF MICROARRAYS ON ADSORBED POLYMER SILICEOUS SURFACES

OFFICIAL AMENDMENT

Box Non Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

An Office Action mailed September 20, 2002 was received for the abovereferenced patent application. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace Claims 1-57, as originally filed, with the following replacement Claims 20-35 and 50. Claims 32, 34, 35 and 50 have been amended, and non-elected Claims 1-19, 36-49 and 51-57 have been canceled, without prejudice. The amendments are reflected in the replacement claims herein below. Canceled Claims 1-19, 36-49 and 51-57 are not included in the replacement claims herein. The attached Appendix provides a marked-up version of the claims, as filed, and a request to amend Claims 32, 34, 35 and 50 and cancel Claims 1-19, 36-49 and 51-57. The status of the claims is shown in parenthesis at the beginning of each claim.